



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF OUTDOOR RECREATION

Alaska Area Office
540 W. 5th Avenue, Rm 201
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

MAR 28 1978

IN REPLY REFER TO:
ER 78/168

MAR 30 1978

Memorandum

TO: Director
Attn: Water Resources Division

FROM: Area Director, Alaska

SUBJECT: Review of Application for License, Green Lake Project,
Sitka, Alaska, FERC Project No. 2818 (ER 78/168)

In response to OEA's instructions of February 24, 1978, we have reviewed the subject license application. A suggested HCRS response to OEPR is attached.

It appears to us that the application adequately considers the cultural resources of the project area. The Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation would, however, be in a better position to advise you on this.

Bill Thomas

Bill Thomas

cc: OEA w/attachment

bcc: Art Schmidt, Ak Dept Fish & Game



United States Department of the Interior
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Memorandum

TO: Director, Office of Environmental Project Review
FROM: Director, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
SUBJECT: Review of Application for License, Green Lake Project,
Sitka, Alaska, FERC Project No. 2818 (ER 78/168)

In response to your memorandum of February 22, 1978, we have reviewed the subject license application, and we submit the following comments for incorporation into the Departmental response to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Exhibit R

We believe the recreation use plan, Exhibit R, underestimates the current use and the potential of the project for future recreational use. This judgment is made after consultation with US Forest Service and Alaska Department of Fish and Game staff members who are knowledgeable of the project area.

The consultant for the City and Borough of Sitka contacted our Alaska Area Office on January 10, 1978, requesting assistance in making estimates of recreational use of the project area. Our Alaska office advised the consultant, R.W. Beck and Associates, that they did not have and were unable to obtain actual recreation use data for the project area. In the absence of hard data, R.W. Beck was further advised to recontact the Department of Fish and Game, Forest Service and local officials for their best estimates of recreational use. The estimates used in the Exhibit R were made by the Applicant (City and Borough of Sitka).

The application dismisses the area as not having significant recreation use or potential because of opportunities that are available elsewhere. While this may be true at the present time, other areas with similar qualities (i.e. fishing) indicate that the recreation potential of the Green Lake Project may be greater than that projected by the applicant. This will be especially true as the population of the Sitka area increases.

For example, Salmon Creek reservoir near Juneau is an area similar to the proposed Green Lake Project in that it is reached via a

four mile trail and supports an Eastern Brook Trout fishery. Based on 1977 creel census figures, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates 257 angler visits to Salmon Creek reservoir during the period June 28 - September 5, 1977, with an estimated catch of 892 fish. Census figures are not available for the winter season, but the Department estimates use of the winter fishery to be as much as three times greater than summer use. While the Juneau area has a larger population than the Sitka area (roughly three times larger), it seems reasonable to conclude that the current and future use of the Green Lake Project is and will be higher than stated in the application.

We recommend that the Applicant reassess the current and potential recreation use of the area and revise the Exhibit R accordingly. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game in Sitka would be in the best position to assist in this matter. As a part of its continuing responsibility to provide for the recreational needs of its citizens and visitors, we further recommend that the City and Borough of Sitka closely monitor the recreation use of the area. As use increases, the City and Borough should provide appropriate additional recreation development such as a primitive camping area with fire pits and sanitary facilities.

Chris Therral Delaporte